

**Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
of
January 11, 2007
USGS Great Lakes Science Center
1451 Green Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan**

Council Members

Jon Allan	Suhmed Bahl
Rich Bowman	Jim Cleland
James Clift	Jon Coleman
Michael Gregg	Kurt Heise
Craig Hoffman	Rod Mersino
Thomas Newhof	Michael Newman
Scott Piggott	Dr. Paul Seelbach
Dr. Alan Steinman (phone in)	

Guests

Jeremiah Asher – MSU	Jim Bredin MDEQ-OGL
Joyce Dunkin – Limno	Mary Ericson – NWF
Patricia Fouchey MDNR	Dave Hamilton MDEQ-LWMD
Bill Maier LBWL	Bobbi McClead – Nestle Waters
Frank Ruswick MDEQ	Grenetta Thomassey Tip of Mitt

Introductions / Meeting logistics

Center Director Leon Carl of Great Lakes Science Center welcomed everyone. Center Director Carl gave a short history of the Great Lakes Science Center. Those present thanked Center Director Carl for his hospitality and free parking. Director Carl acknowledged that free parking is a real bonus especially since the Great Lakes Science Center is part of the University of Michigan Campus. Everyone in the room introduced themselves. Paul Seelbach asked if there were any agenda adjustments / changes needed.

Sustainability Workshop Plans

On March 26, 2007, tentatively from 9:00 AM till 4:00 PM at the Egypt Valley County Club in Grand Rapids, Michigan a Groundwater Sustainability Workshop will be held.

A draft agenda and list of possible participants was reviewed and discussed. All GWCAC members are expected to participate. Sustainability Chairmen Dr. Alan Steinman is anticipating a total of 50 participants. The council feels there will be enough participation from a cross representation of the public and private sector

that the workshop will be for invitees only. A report on the workshop will be put on the GWCAC website. At that time public comment will be sought.

Diagramming the Decision Process

Frank Ruswick, Special Assistant to the DEQ Director, gave a presentation on a flowchart diagramming how the decision process would work if use of the water assessment tool by the person considering a withdrawal was a condition of registration or if the withdrawal could be registered, and then considered under the tool by the DEQ. Mr. Ruswick's presentation was interrupted due to technical difficulties of Dr. Steinman's telephoning in from Florida. The council was grateful for Mr. Ruswick patience.

Mr. Ruswick informed those present that there is a similarity in both processes. Both need to use the water assessment tool. The main difference is where and when the water assessment tool will be used. The administrative cost would be higher if use of the tool by the person considering a withdrawal was not a precondition of registration.

Mr. Ruswick used two flow charts to illustrate the differences in both processes.

Subcommittee Updates

Assessment Tool

The Science Review Panel of December 11 and 12, 2006, was successful. The Review Panel gave constructive comments. They reaffirmed what has been done with the water assessment screening tool. The session firmed up and motivated the researchers to go forward.

The hydrogeology portion of the water assessment screening tool is basically done. The groundwater and surface water model will be done by the end of January. This Friday a report from DNR Fishery sub-sub technical group is due. The 4th component of the water assessment screening tool will be in use and being developed throughout the year.

The February GWCAC Meeting will be very assessment tool heavy discussing policy knobs.

Legal

The Legal Subcommittee met yesterday, January 10, 2007. Frank Ruswick made the same presentation as given today.

The subcommittee also revisited the issue of reasonable use and talked about De Novo Review.

Guiding Principles

From 2:00 till 2:50 the Council reviewed the consolidated guiding principles II 1 9 07 v2 up to Legal #4. Scott Piggott read each statement. Those present commented. Discussion / changes were made until approved.

This set of principles will replace the original. Some of the statements found in the original GWCAC Guiding Principles September 6, 2005 will be restated in these guiding principles.

Next Meetings

February 13, 2007, from 10:00 to 3:00 in the Lansing Area.

March 20, 2007 from 10:00 to 3:00 in the Wayne County Area. Hosted by Kurt Heise.